

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 19, 2004. Claims 24, 29, 35, 51, 58, 59, 60, 63 are amended, claims 22-23, 27-28, 30-34, 49, 50, 55, 57, 61, and 62 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimers, and no new claims are added; as a result, claims 24 - 26, 29, 35 - 48, 51- 54, 58- 60, 63 - 69, 72, and 75 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 22, 23, 27, 28, 30-34, 49, 50, 55, 57, 61, and 62 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Tobita (U.S. 5,646,516). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimers. Accordingly, the rejection thereof is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-26, 29, 35-37, 51, 58-60, 63, and 64 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 38-48, 52-54, 65-69, 72, and 75 were allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9587 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

18 Aug '04

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 18th day of August, 2004.

Name

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Signature

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